



## Aviation Awareness Art Contest

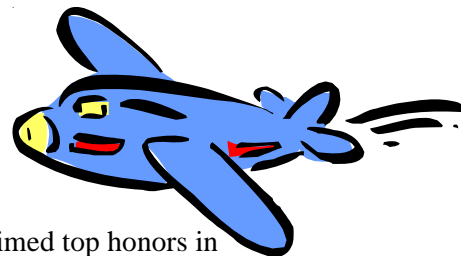
The Montana Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division would like to congratulate the 2006 Aviation Awareness Art Contest winners; Matthew Lindberg of Fort Shaw, Rebecca Roberts of Ulm, and Rebecca Brown of Conrad.

The Aviation Awareness Art Contest is sponsored by the MDT Aeronautics Division and is designed to broaden awareness of the importance of aviation and aerospace to the economy and to promote careers in these industries.

Matthew's poster is a water color of a red Cub in a Montana mountain setting. As the winner of Category III ages 16-18, Matthew will attend the annual Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Air Academy from July 28 to August 5, 2006 in Oshkosh, WI. Lindberg is a student at Fairfield High School and the son of Mark and Nancy Lindberg. The EAA Air Academy is held in conjunction with the 54<sup>th</sup> annual Air Adventure. The academy provides youths from around the world the opportunity to meet and work with aviation professionals and learn about technology and techniques used in aviation. The tuition along with a round trip airline ticket is paid for by contributions from Montana's aviation community, private donations and through the MDT Aeronautics Division's scholarship fund.



*The contest winners were presented with their awards during a ceremony held in the Capitol building. Pictured (l-r) are Matthew Lindberg, Jim Lynch, Rebecca Brown and Rebecca Roberts.*



*Flying First, Category III - Matthew Lindberg of Fort Shaw. See more of the outstanding artwork on page 4 of the newsletter.*

Rebecca Roberts claimed top honors in the age 11-15 category for her drawing of "Montana Aviation, Is It In You?" Roberts is a student at Cascade High School and the daughter of Walt and Shauna Roberts.

Rebecca Brown snagged the age 6 -10 age category with her drawing of an eagle and airplane in flight, "Experience the Freedom of Flight." Brown is a student at Meadowlark Elementary and the daughter of Dan and Amy Brown.

Contest winners along with their parents attended an awards ceremony in the Rotunda of the Capitol building in Helena, June 15. MDT Director Jim Lynch presented all three winners with a trophy, pin and plaque for their achievement. Following the ceremony the group was treated to a tour of the State Capitol and lunch at Captain Jack's in the Helena Regional Airport.

# Administrator's Column

**Mark the date:** The Lincoln airport reconstruction project is nearing completion. An open house will be held at the airport on Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. Come check out the improvements, try-out the runway and enjoy a burger while you're there. Take a tour of the airport grounds and spend some time touring an Aeronautics Division "showcase" of activities. A barbeque will begin around 5:00 p.m., but make plans to get there early to enjoy the festivities.

**Secretary Mineta Resigns:** Transportation Secretary Norm Mineta has resigned effective July 7. Prior to this appointment, he served as a U.S. representative for California, chairman of the House aviation subcommittee and the House Public Works and Transportation Committee. Secretary Mineta has been engaged in transportation for four decades. Secretary Mineta understood the importance of general aviation, its pilots and aviation safety. He also understood the importance of funding GA airports through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) program, which gives federal money to airports in the form of grants for maintenance and improvements. I had the pleasure of hearing Secretary Mineta speak about one-half dozen times over the past few years. He was always a gentleman and true statesman— best wishes Secretary Mineta.

**LWT Airport Improvement:** Area-wide free internet wireless access is now available at the Lewistown airport. This important new value-added development will be advertiser supported with potential heavy use by Big Sky Airline passengers, all pilots that carry laptops, local businesses that are located at the airport and perhaps the new meth center that will be located on the airport once it is constructed. Next time you're at the Lewiston airport I hope you'll have an opportunity to enjoy this new airport feature.

**DF Steer:** Have you ever asked for a DF (direction finding) steer? This is a service provided by flight service stations that can help get a pilot back on course. The FSS asks the pilot to key the mike for 10-15 seconds, then announce the tail number. The DF equipment homes in on the transmission and provides a bearing to the aircraft radio. The station can pinpoint the pilot's position by having the aircraft make turns and assess the bearing change. The FAA is considering decommissioning the remaining 54 direction finders (excluding Alaska) as well as any associated DF approach. Comments are due in by July 28, for more information see: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/06-5734.htm>

**More Montana flights:** Missoula International Airport now has direct service to Portland. Starting in June, Billings-based Big Sky Airlines now offers two nonstop weekend flights to Portland. The flights leave Missoula at 10:25 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, with return flights landing at 2:40 p.m. The news comes on the heels of new flights from various carriers between Missoula and Salt Lake City, Denver, Las Vegas and Chicago.



## *Montana and the Sky*

Department of Transportation

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Jim Lynch, Director

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# Where Are Those Aviation Students Now?

By: Jeanne MacPherson, Bureau Chief/Safety & Education



Andrew Jones from Turner, Montana has had his mind set on being a pilot since he was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Andrew has held true to that dream.

It was nine years ago, that Andrew attended Montana Aeronautics Division's Aviation Career Camp (ACE). Andrew's parents told me that a picture of the Division's A36 Bonanza with Andrew, a new Young Eagle, has been on their family refrigerator for many years.

From the EAA's world's largest logbook, "Andrew W. Jones from Turner, MT on 6/10/1997 flew a Beech A-36 Bonanza with Jeanne MacPherson"

Andrew earned the Daedalian Flight Scholarship and the Aviation Organizations of Montana Flight Scholarship both of these scholarships helped Andrew achieve his Private Pilot's License. Andrew was the Vice Wing Commander, AFROTC Detachment 450 and graduated from MSU with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

Andrew has been one to volunteer his time and was on the panel of aviation career professionals at the Montana Aviation Conference in Butte. Andrew talked to and shared his aviation passion with young students interested in aviation careers. What a great joy to see a young person that once was a part of our aviation programs become an aviation professional and in turn give the gift back to others.

Recently, Andrew called the Aeronautics Division and personally extended an invitation to attend his commissioning ceremony as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. He informed us that he was awarded a pilot slot in the US Air Force.

Way to go Andrew! You make us proud!

## Calendar

**July 23** – St. Ignatius Fly-In– Pancake Breakfast 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., raffles for AvGas, Meals, etc. Same weekend as "Good Old Days" in St. Ignatius.

**July 24-30** – EAA AirVenture 2006 – Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

**August 3-5** – Montana Antique Airplane Association Three Forks Fly-In. For further information contact Steve or Cindy Kleimer at (406) 586-2307 or [sckleimer@aol.com](mailto:sckleimer@aol.com).

**August 4-6** – Splash-In, Fly-In Stillwater Landing. For further information go to [www.stillwaterlanding.com](http://www.stillwaterlanding.com) or email [bill@stillwaterlanding.com](mailto:bill@stillwaterlanding.com).

**August 8-11** – Aviation Career Academy (ACE) for sophomore, junior & senior high school students interested in aviation. Because of its immense popularity the ACE camp is full, for further information phone (406) 444-2506 (Jeanne or Shirley).

**August 9** – Lincoln Airport Dedication. Sponsored by Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division. BBQ beginning at 5:00 p.m. For further information phone (406) 444-2506.

**August 11-13** - McCall Family Fly-In, McCall, Idaho.

**August 18-19** – Wing's & Wheel's Fly-In, Powell, Wyoming. Flour Bombing, Hangar Dance, Air Show and more. For further information phone Orville Moore at (307) 754-5234.

**August 18-20** – Montana Fun Weekend – Cut Bank Airport. Fly-In with breakfast on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Car and airplane show and shine with prizes. Car show and burn out contest, Friday night lawn-chair drive-in movie, bowling ball bombing, RC models, drag racing on Saturday evening and stock car racing on Saturday.

**August 19** – National Aviation Day.

**August 19** – Eighth Annual Polson Fly-In and Swap Meet. Pancake breakfast, lunch and pitchfork fondue (steak fry), swap meet, airplane rides, Soroptimist's Wine Festival that evening. For more information email Bill Olson at [weo@commbank.net](mailto:weo@commbank.net).

**September 9** – Dillon Aviation Day. For further information phone Jean Devivo at (406) 683-5242.

**September 23-24** – Civil Air Patrol Emergency Service Training Exercise, Laurel Airport, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. [www.mtwg.cap.gov](http://www.mtwg.cap.gov).

**October 7** – Hirsch Ranch Fly-In, 30 miles northwest of Miles City.



# More Winning Artwork!



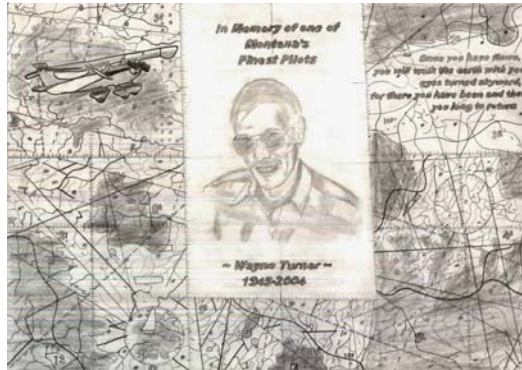
Flying First, Category II - Rebecca Roberts, Ulm.



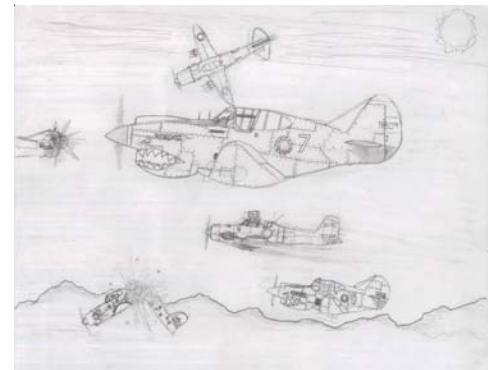
Flying First, Category I - Rebecca Brown, Conrad



Flying Second, Category II - Zane Brown, Columbia Falls



Flying Second, Category III - Jamie Fox, Harlem



Flying Second, Category I - Tyrell Born, Hamilton



Flying Third, Category III - Eli Bush, Lewistown



Flying Third, Category II - Jonathan Braaten, Glasgow



Flying Third, Category I - Devan Shumway, East Helena



## Veterans Honored

Adm. Michael G. Mullen, chief of naval operations, flew more than 6,000 miles round trip to honor 16 local surviving veterans of the Battle of Midway on the flight deck of the Midway Museum last month. Organizers said Mullen headed back to Washington, D.C., shortly after delivering his 20-minute speech that marked the 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic battle.

At the end, a dramatic fly-over was made by two vintage World War II aircraft, a Wildcat and a Hellcat. But missing was the modern F-18 Hornet. It broke down on the runway, reported the emcee, retired Adm. John "Mac" McLaughlin. He added, with a grin: "We can count on our World War II planes."



# City Transit, Airport Chief Retires

By: Ed Kemmick, Billings Gazette staff - reprinted with permission. Portions of this article have been omitted for the complete story go to [www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2006/04/19/news/local/35-retires.txt#topofpage](http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2006/04/19/news/local/35-retires.txt#topofpage)

The longest-serving department head for the city of Billings retired on June 30. Bruce Putnam took over as manager of the Billings Logan International Airport in 1979 and has been director of the Aviation and Transit Department since the two were combined in 1985.

Library Director Bill Cochran said it will be hard to replace Putnam's experience and his willingness to get involved in citywide issues as part of the municipal government team.

"He's been the institutional memory and, to a considerable extent, the steward of the organization's health," Cochran said.

Putnam, who turns 60 in September, was born in South Dakota and moved with his family to Lewistown when he was 13. A graduate of Fergus county High School, he got a basketball scholarship to Montana State University in Bozeman, where he played forward for a portion of two seasons.

He earned a bachelor's degree in history in 1968 and was commissioned as an Army lieutenant that summer, having participated in ROTC during college. He got his first experience with aviation during his two years with the Army, starting out in a Huey helicopter maintenance battalion.

He was later stationed in South Korea, where his assignment was to escort Korean Marines by ship to Vietnam. After his discharge in the spring of 1970, Putnam went back to MSU, planning to get a doctorate in history and become a college professor. He earned his master's in Western American History – his thesis was on the early history of Bozeman – but there was such a glut of doctoral students in history that he decided instead to put his research and aviation experience to use.

He worked for a consulting firm in Bozeman that did master planning for airports all over the Northwest. After three years of that, he decided to try applying what he'd learned to one airport. And in 1977 he was hired as assistant manager of the Billings airport.

"And the rest has just been a big ol' fun bronco ride," he said.

Putnam held the assistant position for 22 months and was named manager when Dale Norby moved on to a new job. There have been some big changes over 29 years, including an estimated \$110 million worth of improvements and expansions at the airport. Airports are infrastructure-intensive places, Putnam said, where "you're always building something or fixing something else."

Putnam and his wife, Marsha, a retired School District 2 teacher, will continue living in Billings but also plan to spend time at their recently completed cabin in the Little Snowy Mountains south of Lewistown. They plan to travel and spend time with their daughter, Jodi Wall, her husband, Steve, and their grandson, Logan.



Marsha and Bruce Putnam

## Broadus Airport Honored

Awards for outstanding accomplishments were presented at the closing luncheon during the Northwest Mountain Region Airports Conference held in Seattle. Broadus Airport was honored for dedication and perseverance in completing construction of a new replacement airport to meet the needs of the community of Broadus and Powder River County. Accepting the award was Craig Canfield of Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson. Pictured (l-r) are Lowell Johnson, Craig Canfield and Dave Stelling. The conference attracted more than 400 participants, who were offered a variety of topics in 14 separate sessions. In addition to the sessions, there was a pre-conference workshop where 125 participants heard the latest news on Design and Construction of Portland Cement Concrete.



# Sunday Creek Fly-In



*A Fly-In was held at the Sunday Creek Airport last month. A scrumptious dinner was held with barbequed steak and all the trimmings. About thirty people were in attendance to enjoy the food, fun and games. This was a great opportunity to bring eastern Montana a little closer to the western part of the state.*

## Lincoln Airport Dedication

### August 9, 2006

Sponsored by:  
Montana Department of  
Transportation  
Aeronautics Division  
Tours, Vendors & Fun - 3:00 p.m.  
Barbeque at 5:00 p.m.

For further information phone  
(406) 444-2506  
Hope to see you there!!!

# B-17 Bomber Visits Billings

By: Rob McDowell, Butte, MT

The Billings chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association hosted "Aluminum Overcast"; the EAA's restored B-17 Bomber June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> for a stop on their 2006 "Keep It Flying" national tour. Offered at these stops is not only the opportunity to take a ground tour of the plane, but for those who desire, a ride can be scheduled.

With the thought that this would be the best opportunity for me to take a ride in this magnificent part of history, I booked a flight on June 7. I was scheduled for the first flight of the day at 10:15 a.m. They want you to be there at least one hour prior to the flight so that the paper work and pre-flight briefings can be done. This is also a good time to take a thorough walk around, get some good pictures, and ask a lot of questions. About fifteen minutes prior to departure my group of eight gathered in front of the right horizontal stabilizer for a short safety briefing and to get our seat assignments. I was assigned a seat in the center section in front of the right waist 50-caliber machine gun. Since this was the first flight of the day they had to let the engines warm up and run the check lists. When cleared, we taxied to runway 10L for takeoff. We were airborne in less than half of the runway length and told we could get up and move around the airplane. At about three fourths of the runway the altitude was sufficient to make a steep right turn that put us looking at the heart of downtown Billings. From there we headed southwest toward Laurel airport making a couple of turns overhead and touring around the west side of town. During this whole time we could visit the cockpit, go into the nose and sit in the bombardier's seat and enjoy the view. The flight lasted about twenty-five minutes which was plenty of time to get a good look at the airplane and the valley below. Coming in on downwind for runway 28R for landing we had to sit back down and fasten our seat belts. This was a good time to think back in history and realize what an important part the B-17 played in keeping our country free and to appreciate the men who flew them through many dangerous missions.



If you have further interest in the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress or the tour schedule of Aluminum Overcast, visit their web site, [www.b17.org](http://www.b17.org). There you will find many good stories about the airplane as well as the schedule for the national tour. For pilots or those interested in a great piece of history it is time well spent.

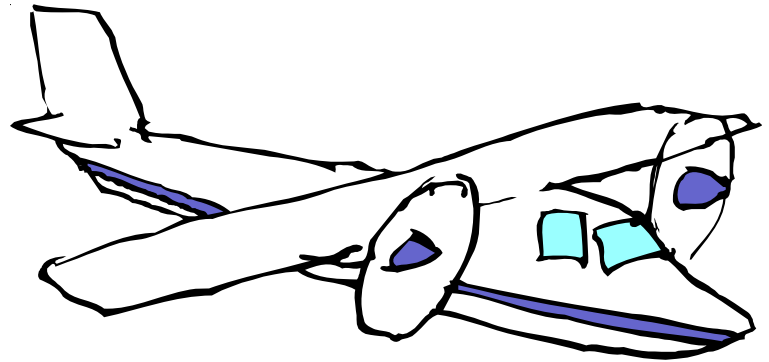


# MacPherson and Walters Named Master CFI's

The National Association of Flight Instructors (NAFI) takes pride in announcing significant aviation accomplishments on the part of Jeanne MacPherson, Montana Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division's Safety and Education Bureau chief and resident of Helena, MT and Clifton "Cliff" Walters, North Star Aviation's chief flight instructor and a resident of Hamilton, MT. Recently, Jeanne and Cliff were accredited as Master CFI (Certificated Flight Instructor) by NAFI, their professional aviation education association.

To help put their achievements in its proper perspective, there are approximately 90,000 CFIs in the United States. Fewer than 500 of them have achieved this distinction thus far. The last eleven national Flight Instructors of the Year were Master CFIs while Jeanne and Cliff are two of only seven Montana aviation educators who have earned this prestigious "Master" title.

We congratulate Jeanne and Cliff for their outstanding achievement. They will be publicly recognized for their noteworthy accomplishments at the NAFI "Meet the Master's" breakfast during EAA's AirVenture in Oshkosh and Sun n' Fun in Lakeland.



## Be Sure to Test the Water First.....

*By: Mike Korn, MT Fish Wildlife & Parks*

With summer upon us, many pilots have swapped their wheels for floats to explore Montana and other places in the Northwest. Although not quite as well known as Alaska, the Northwest Territories or British Columbia for floatplane operations, Montana does offer opportunities for fly-in water recreation.

Something that is not mentioned in the Montana directories or on sectionals is that many public bodies of water have boating restrictions that also extend to float planes. Most notably, these regulations may restrict the use of motorized vessels altogether, vessels using gasoline engines, or may impose horsepower restrictions. Additionally, there may be restrictions that require all vessels to operate at no wake speeds (creating no white water in the track or path of the vessel or created in waves immediate to the vessel.) Since a float or seaplane becomes a water vessel when it is operating on the water (which includes the points of landing or takeoff) these restrictions would apply to aircraft as well as boats.

Another consideration at many lakes is that there may be concentrations of waterfowl. These concentrations are usually at their highest points during spring and fall migration but also in late spring when these birds are nesting and fledging (from late May through the early part of July.) Some lakes may also be associated with Wildlife Management or Waterfowl Production Areas, also resulting in high concentrations of birds. Pilots need to be aware of these areas in order to avoid potentially dangerous bird strike situations as well as help to maintain the integrity of the wildlife areas.

All of the lake regulations can be found in the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks brochure; *Montana Boating Laws* which is available free of charge at local FWP offices. This information is also available on the FWP website under the Fishing Section at: <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishing/regulations/closuresrestrictions.html>

For questions regarding any regulations on Montana lakes, contact the local Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Office.

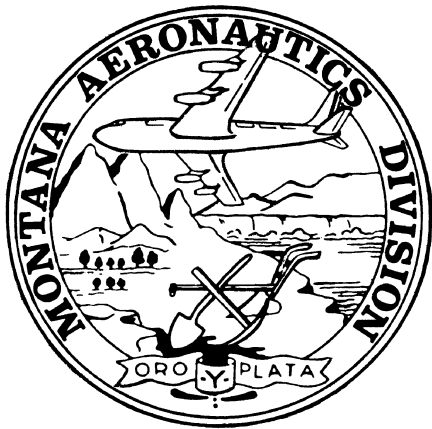
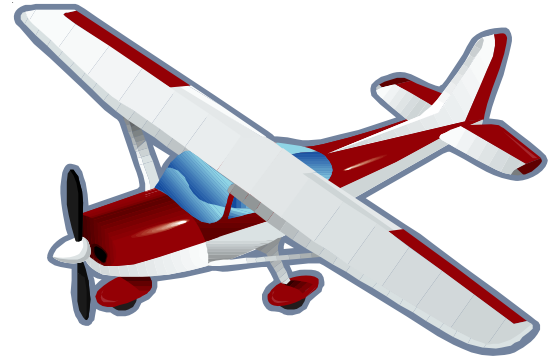
# Meadow Creek Work Session



*Blue skies and sunshine brought a record number of airplanes to the Meadow Creek work session. Pictured are (l-r) Nels Jensen, Ronan and R.T. Atkins, Kalispell. R.T. and Nels fly the Montana backcountry airstrips regularly and are ever ready to lend a helping hand, they along with many other volunteers spent the day clearing bushes and trees on the new extension of the runway. The local MPA and EAA pilots provided the hard workers with a delicious steak dinner. Photo courtesy of Jerry Cain, Lincoln.*

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